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**F.Y.I.** is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Editor Gail Madziar.

## MPRI CONFERENCE SHOWCASES ACTIVITIES

Nearly 800 state and local government leaders, elected officials, law enforcement officials, community and faith-based representatives, service providers, and other stakeholders participating in the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) packed the Big Ten Room at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing last week to hear how Michigan is working to ensure that its prisoners are prepared for successful re-entry when released from prison.

The MPRI conference, called *Safer Neighborhoods, Better Citizens*, focused on reducing crime by transforming the prisoner re-entry process and addressed the issues facing communities as they prepare to receive released prisoners.

It was also an opportunity to unveil the MPRI model as the initiative moves from the planning stage to implementation. The model is the result of nearly two years of extensive planning

and design by a DOC team that included representatives from partnering state agencies and community-based organizations concerned with reducing parolee recidivism.

One of the key messages of the conference was the important role played by those in the communities. Prisoners will have better success returning to communities that have helped them prepare for their return home and are expecting them.

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## GOVERNOR SIGNS CORRECTIONS BUDGET

The Governor today signed HB 4831, the minibus bill, which includes the Department of Corrections' \$1.7 billion Fiscal Year 2006 budget. The minibus bill provides funding for the Newberry Correctional Facility and Camp Manistique, the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative and prisoner education programs. In addition it contains no employee concessions.

As expected, the Governor implemented a line item veto on the portion of the budget funding the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility (MYC) in Baldwin. Prisoners currently housed at the facility will soon be relocated into other DOC facilities. Staff at the youth facility are employees of the Boca Raton, Fla.-based GEO Group, Inc. Today a team from the DOC Bureau of Human Resources and the Michigan Department of Civil Service are meeting with those staff about employment opportunities within the state.

"We're pleased to be able to offer the GEO staff some employment opportunities," said Director Patricia L. Caruso. "We're meeting with MYC staff today to go over the options. The Department of Corrections has facilities and field offices across the state. We'll be looking at what is available in other state departments as well and work to maximize employment opportunities for all current MYC employees."

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## **MPRI CONFERENCE** *continued from page 1*

“We are taking the big step from planning to action,” said MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso. “We’ve done a great job at what we’ve been doing—keeping the lid on prisons and parole supervision, but we can’t be successful at re-entry without our partners in community-based organizations.”

MPRI is working with communities and other organizations to help prepare the offenders before they are released from prison. Macomb Correctional Facility received its first MPRI prisoners on September 15. Beginning October 1, six additional correctional facilities, Pugsley, Boyer Road, Ryan, G. Robert Cotton, Bellamy Creek and Saginaw, will receive their initial group of MPRI prisoners. Staff at these first-round pilot site facilities will engage in interactions with the prisoners, FOA field agents, and community and state agency representatives through participation on transition teams. The teams will identify and work with the specific needs and strengths of individual prisoners who are preparing for re-entry to their communities.

Additional facilities will be identified in the coming months for round two of the implementation. The second round of pilot site communities will include Calhoun, Jackson, Muskegon, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties. The Cooper Street Correctional Facility and Huron Valley Complex-Women have been demonstrating components of the MPRI model in their Intensive Re-entry Units since spring.

The MPRI is currently focusing on prison in-reach strategies in order to engage the communities and stakeholders that are partnering with the initiative. The Department of Labor and Economic Growth is working to reduce the barriers to employment for ex-offenders through the Michigan Works! agencies. And, for the first time, steps are being taken to introduce employment opportunities to offenders while they are still in prison.

“We are trying to take it a step further while the prisoners are still in the facility,” said Administration and Programs Deputy Director Barry McLemore. “We would like to see folks eventually be hired directly from the facility.”

Director Caruso agrees that employment must be a high priority and recognizes ways to address the issue. “While unemployment is high, there are still jobs available. One thing we have to do is to identify those jobs and if they are appropriate, focus on those areas,” said Director Caruso.

Studies show that releasing offenders with skills and employment possibilities goes a long way toward successful re-entry and reduced recidivism. There are other factors that must be addressed as well. Housing, health, substance abuse and family counseling are being provided by the departments of Community Health, Human Services, and Labor and Economic Growth. These state departments are partnered with the Department of Corrections and under the leadership of the Governor’s Office in the MPRI to offer the additional services needed to help offenders successfully transition to the community and in turn reduce the rate of recidivism in Michigan.

“We would like to see the recidivism rate for Michigan reduced from 48% to under 30%,” said Policy and Strategic Planning Administration Deputy Director Dennis Schrantz. “We can accomplish this by making sure prisoners have specific plans for housing, medical care and employment. They must have everything they need to be law-abiding citizens when they are released to their communities.”

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## SECC is underway

The State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) runs through October 21. SECC chair Director Patricia L. Caruso is encouraging all corrections employees to consider signing up for a payroll deduction.

“Corrections employees are well known for their generosity on a daily basis. That was evident in the nearly \$70,000 raised in short notice for Hurricane Katrina victims,” said Director Caruso. “The SECC is a way to provide for sustained charitable giving.”

In an event such as Hurricane Katrina many of the agencies who moved in quickly with aid to the victims are those listed in the combined campaign.

“The dollars we gave to those charities over the past years is what allowed them to move in quickly,” said Director Caruso. “None of us knows when we might need Hospice or Red Cross or Big Brothers/Big Sisters. To keep those charities functioning we need to make sure they are funded on a long-term basis.”

SECC is the charitable fund raiser for State of Michigan employees. It is not driven by the governor, the legislature or any other government entity. It is strictly an opportunity for state employees to provide a positive flow of money to charities. It’s a way to let those organizations know what they can count on.

Since the campaign began in 1987, employees have contributed over \$36.4 million to local and state community charities. To date for the 2006 campaign, corrections employees, including 26 first time and 2,013 returning participants, have pledged \$246,622. Overall 7,796 state employee participants have pledged \$1,250,365 which is 77% of goal.

If you are already a donor to the SECC, please consider increasing your current donation by two percent this year as a way to help meet this year’s goal. If you currently give \$10, a two percent increase is only 20 cents. Current givers should verify their pledges for 2006 by calling MIHR at 877-766-6447. If you are a new giver please think about a simple \$2 per pay period contribution.

This year employees have the added option of choosing continued support for the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts through the Bush/Clinton Fund. Local relief efforts on the part of charities such as the American Red Cross and others are ongoing for hurricane assistance as well.

“The SECC directory that each employee received lists thousands of deserving organizations,” said Director Caruso. “The contribution can be as small or as large as you choose and will go to the charity of your choice.”

Signing up for the SECC this year is easier than ever. There are no forms to fill out. Between September 19 and October 21, you may go online to MIHR self service at [www.michigan.gov/selfserv](http://www.michigan.gov/selfserv) or simply make a phone call to the service center at 877-766-6447. Or, you may make a contribution by check, credit card or direct bill.

For information on the individual charitable organizations listed in the directory, go to [www.misecc.org](http://www.misecc.org) and select the name from the drop down list.



Jim Hughes, Regional Administrator for the Courts of Michigan, Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor of the Michigan Supreme Court, Director Patricia L. Caruso and Tim McCormick, DMB Organizational Services at the SECC kickoff event.



## Law Enforcement Torch Run covers 750 miles



Director Caruso, the Torch Run Team and Lansing walkers at Grand View Plaza in Lansing.



Earnest C. Brooks, West Shoreline and Muskegon Correctional Facility staff, Muskegon Area and Parole Office staff, participated in the torch run/walk

The Law Enforcement Torch Run sped through Lansing on its way across the state last week. The team stopped long enough to send the walkers in the Lansing torch run/walk on their way.

The 2005 Law Enforcement Torch Run began its 750-mile relay on September 10 in Copper Harbor. The run, which includes teams from the Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police and Fraternal Order of Police, concluded on September 16 in Sterling Heights.

Central Office staff held a silent auction along with their walk to raise funds for Special Olympics.

Staff from the Muskegon Parole and Area Office joined

up with participants from the Muskegon Correctional Facility, West Shoreline Correctional Facility and Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility to participate in their three-mile run on Sept. 15 at Heritage Landing, Muskegon, raising a total of \$8,806 this year for Special Olympics Michigan. Each person paid \$25 to participate in the fund raiser.

Muskegon Parole and Area Office staff also donated their third quarter casual day dollars to sponsor C/O Mark Horsley from the Muskegon Correctional Facility to help in his fund-raising efforts for the LETR.

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Sault Ste. Marie Torch Run participants



From left: Muskegon Parole, Leslie VanDeusen and Kathy Mayer and Deb Larson, Muskegon Area office



Lansing Central Office staff braved the rain for their LETR walk.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN *continued from page 4*

Staff from Muskegon, West Shoreline and Earnest C. Brooks correctional facilities waited tables at a local Pizza Hut raising over \$250 for the torch run. Muskegon Correctional Facility Health Services

staff provided a salad luncheon collecting another \$283.

That same week, staff bowled Scotch Doubles at the Northway Lanes, raising an additional \$972

for Special Olympics Michigan.

Fund raisers for the week netted a total of \$1,505 for LETR.

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## ARRF remembers the other hurricane victims

Kim McGuire, a nurse with ARF-RTP unit, is organizing and collecting donations for the Humane Society of Louisiana in New Orleans [www.humanela.org](http://www.humanela.org) which was totally destroyed by hurricane Katrina. The shelter has temporarily moved to Tylertown, Mississippi which is about two hours from New Orleans.

McGuire and her dog rescue group, All Rover's Rescue Friends (ARRF), are collecting everything for pets: crates, food (dog and cat), collars, leashes, bowls and cash donations to cover veterinarian care. They are also looking for foster homes for animals that they will be bringing back. More information is available at [www.allroversrescuefriends.org](http://www.allroversrescuefriends.org).

The rescue group plans to leave October 10 for the Gulf area. Donations can be delivered to the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility from October 1 through October 8, or you can contact McGuire at 517-265-3900 ext.3562 or [kim@allroversrescuefriends.org](mailto:kim@allroversrescuefriends.org) to arrange a pickup. ARRF is a 501c3 organization.

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## MAP CONFERENCE REACHES OUT TO STAFF

This year's Minority Advisory Panel conference embraced a holistic approach to career growth at their ninth annual conference.

Keynote speaker Linda Parker, Director of the Department of Civil Rights addressed more than 150 DOC staff. Along with panel discussions on financial planning and interview techniques, the event included a mini health fair sponsored by the Sparrow Health Care Systems.

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ALL ROVER'S RESCUE FRIENDS

**ARRF**

"Where Best Friends Meet"



# Stress management for Corrections Officers

Consider picking up a copy of *Stress Management for the Professional Correction Officer*, a pamphlet by Donald W. Steele, Ph.D. The publication provides an overview and offers direction for managing stress in and outside of DOC facilities. Effective stress management significantly contributes to overall health and makes employees more effective at work and at home.

The pamphlet is available at no cost in the Human Resources Department at each DOC facility, or call Rosanne Leland, Work/Life Services Coordinator at 517- 373-7630 to obtain a copy. The materials were purchased for the department by the Office of the State Employer/Employee Service Program to provide a starting point for applying stress management techniques that are specific to the unique job requirements faced by corrections officers.

Dr. Steele works with the Stress Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections and has dealt with the unique problems officers and their families face for over 20 years.

“Corrections work is stressful and if that stress is not handled well, it can result in serious negative mental and physical health outcomes,” said Dr. Steele. “I believe we can do a lot to prevent distress through education and providing skills and training to manage life problems in healthy ways that are positive.”

*Stress Management for the Professional Correction Officer* touches on topics of interest such as:

Triggers for stress in a prison: Stress related behaviors: Job consequences for Corrections Officers: Managing thoughts and anger: Communication: The impact of stress on female officers: Obtaining help.

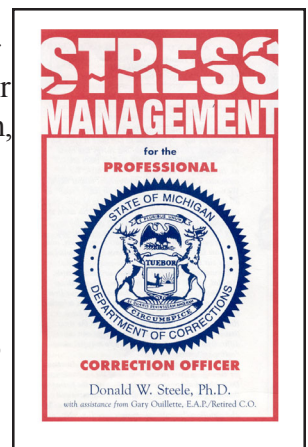
“We need to increase the willingness of officers to reach out and assist or encourage co-workers when they see trouble in their personal or professional lives,” said Dr. Steele.

## When and how to get help:

If you are frequently angry. If you have rapid or frequent mood changes. If you have violent or suicidal thoughts. If you are frequently suspicious of the motives of others. If your colleagues or loved ones advise that you get help. If you are using too much sick time. If you drink too much, too often.

## Contact:

The State of Michigan Employee Service Program (ESP), you can contact either the Lansing office at 800-521-1377 or 517-373-7630, or the Detroit office at 800-872-5563 or 313-456-4020. ESP offices are open from 8:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All ESP services are free of charge. You can also log on to the Employee Service Program Web site: [www.michigan.gov/esp](http://www.michigan.gov/esp) for more information.



For urgent mental health situations 24 hours 7 days a week, employees covered by the state health plan PPO should contact Magellan of Michigan at 1-866-503-3158. Employees who belong to an HMO may call their HMO for assistance in selecting and contacting a provider. The HMO telephone number to call for assistance is located on the back of the HMO insurance card.

In the event of a life-threatening emergency you should go immediately to the nearest emergency room. Your local police can be contacted at 911 for assistance if needed.

# HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF REACHES \$68,366



Riverside Correctional Facility dunk tank



Seventh District Court Magistrate Craig Hess, Van Buren County Prosecutor Juris Kaps, and 36th Circuit Court Judge William Buhl are served lunch by Van Buren staff.



From left: Linda Lautner, Sandy Blake, & Kellie LaVictor collect for the Traverse City area hurricane relief effort.

The final tally for the MDOC Hurricane Katrina relief effort came to \$68,366. Corrections staff participated in dress-down days, held pot lucks, golf outings and even ran dunk tanks to raise funds. Riverside and Deerfield correctional facilities along with the Region II office managed to collect \$7,700.

“Our staff always steps up when it counts,” said Director Patricia L. Caruso. “I am extremely proud of the job they did raising funds for their colleagues in the stricken Gulf Coast region. I know their efforts are appreciated.”

The Jackson area correctional facilities held a Hurricane Katrina golf outing and raised a total of \$1789. This was made possible in part by the donations and reduction in greens fees by the Sparrow Hawk Golf Course. Organizers of the event were G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility (JCF) staff Tracy Crawford, Mike Strzyzewski and Cooper Street Correctional Facility (JCS) staff Kevin Lindsey. Additional JCF volunteers included Chris Langley, Mary Dege, Barb Richey, Debra Linda-Mueller, Brenda Schmeltz and Ernie Pazitka along with Chuck Christner, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center and Jimmy Jarrett Southern Michigan Correctional Facility.

Alger Maximum Correctional Facility and Camp Cusino raised funds by conducting a bake sale, silent auction,

dress down day and collecting cash donations.

In response to the need for help from the Katrina Hurricane victims, Parole Officer Kellie LaVictor, with the help of secretaries Sandy Blake and Linda Lautner of the Grand Traverse County Probation/Parole Office, organized a bake sale in the State Office Building in Traverse City. The response was overwhelming and people from the community participated and donated over \$500.

Macomb Correctional Facility staff donated \$556 during dress-down day. They also collected a truck load of supplies, clothing and individual bags of toiletries for delivery to areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. They even managed to send a case of dog food.

The fund-raising events at the Boyer Road/Carson City correctional facilities included: jean days, two cookouts, a silent auction and cash donations netting \$6,500.

Van Buren County Probation/Parole staff raised \$884 for Hurricane Relief by serving breakfast to over 70 Courthouse and Sheriff's Department employees. Probation/Parole staff served homemade Belgian waffles with an assortment of toppings and made to order scrambled eggs. Probation/Parole staff supplied the majority of the food with area restaurants donating table service and food. The breakfast was

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## HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF REACHES \$68,366 *continued from page 7*



St. Louis facilities held a cook out to raise funds for hurricane relief.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Assistant Food Service Director Don Spaulding, Sgt. Cory Crugher; Warden Jan Trombley; Deputy Warden Erick Balcarcel, and Prison Build Coordinator Jack Adam collected needed items.



Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility Deputy Warden Nannette Norwood was on hand for a check presentation for their donations to Julie Southwick, Administrative Assistant A & P, along with C/O Tom Greenhoe and Lt. Jennifer Jula.

served in the courthouse break room/kitchen and the courthouse law library was turned into a temporary dining room. Probation/Parole staff did all the food preparation, serving, and cleanup.

Staff from the Saginaw Correctional Facility filled a flatbed truck with water, tents, new clothes and other needed items and filled a full-size pickup truck with another 40 boxes of goods. This was in addition to 225 personal hygiene bags made by staff. Staff also donated coolers, tents, cases of water, new and like-new clothing, diapers, toys and paper products.

Staff from the Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline Correctional Facilities raised more than \$4,500 for the the hurricane relief

efforts. They participated in dress-down days, a silent auction, a 50/50 drawing and enjoyed a hot dog roast and pancake breakfasts provided by the LRF Employee Club. The winner of the 50/50 drawing, C/O Melissa Denson, contributed her winnings to the effort, as well.

C/O Denson's cousin was living in New Orleans when Katrina struck, and was missing for several weeks. She was just recently found safe.

In addition to the money donated to the NAAWS relief effort, staff from West Shoreline and Brooks also contributed more than \$11,000 in cash, food, and emergency supplies to victims of Katrina.

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Warden Doug Vasbinder, Deputy Warden Joe Barrett, RPA Barbara Bock, Bill Marienfeld and Rande Rewerts play golf for hurricane victims.